

# THORNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at 6 pm at Thornham Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllrs S Mocatta (Chair), A Chesterman (Vice-Chair), I Barrett, A Needham, S Greef, D Arthur and A Jamieson Clerk: Sarah Raven  
Members of the Public: 3

Welcome by Chair Cllr S Mocatta

**1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023:**

The Minutes were resolved to be approved.

**2. Chairman's Annual Report:**

Thanks to Cllrs S Greef and A Needham for completing the village matters and inspections. Thank you to Cllr I Barrett for leading the finance team with Cllrs A Chesterman and A Jamieson. Thank you to Cllrs D Arthur and A Chesterman for work on the planning advisory group. Thank you to Cllr A Chesterman for being Vice-Chair and stepping in at short notice to take the meetings. Thank you to Cllr A Jamieson for all the work linking the PC with County Council. Thank you to Sarah Raven for being Clerk.

**3. End of Year Financial Report:**

[Attached below.](#)

**4. Borough Councillor Cllr Tom De Winton:**

No report

**5. Report from County Councillor Cllr Andrew Jamieson:**

[Attached below.](#)

**6. Report from Speed Watch:**

[Attached below.](#)

**7. Report from Village Hall**

[Attached below](#)

**8. Report from Jubilee Meadow:**

Health & Safety report has been commissioned. A few issues to be looked at but the majority was good. English Grass Cutting has taken on the grass cutting and maintenance for the Jubilee Meadow. There is a cost implication for this work. Looking at how to generate a regular income. Very grateful for the financial grant being given by the Parish Council which will help with costs over the next year. 25 trees have been planted. 15 were transplanted. Ed Cross has been consulted regarding the seeds to see how things are progressing and advice. During the course of the year more trees will be planted to give a more variety of colour. Drove Orchards have been very helpful watering the trees to try and make sure the root ball is watered sufficiently. Discussion on plans for shelters during winter months

including a bird hide. A kestrel is nesting in the Owl box. Number of small bird boxes being used. Birds are being monitored and baseline data being collected by Norfolk Rivers Trust.

**9. Report from Parochial Church Council:**

[Attached below.](#)

**10. Report from Bag Ladies:**

[Attached below.](#)

**11. Report from Bowls Club:**

Would like to have new players as very low numbers. There are only 12 regular players. Everyone very welcome to attend. Social bowls 2pm on Saturday and 6.30pm on a Wednesday.

**12. Report from Tennis Club:**

None

**13. Report from Cricket Club**

First game was a County Match, Seniors over 70s holding the game at very short notice as original venue had a waterlogged pitch. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Teams played and won both matches. Over 40s team is playing at Castle Rising. Junior training is arranged for Monday evenings. Thornham Cricket Club is putting together a women's softball team to play friendly tournaments over the summer.

**14. Report about new Pavilion**

Covered in Village Hall Report.

**15. Questions and Statements from Parishioners.**

None

Closed 6:54 pm

## Financial Report:

FIGURES FOR THE YEAR TO 31/13/2024

	TOTAL	CIL	GENERAL
Opening Reserves/Bank Balances	£63920	£23782	£40138
Income	£41710	£3497	£38213
Expenses	£44911	£8689	£36222
Closing Reserves/ Bank Balances	£60719	£18590	£42129

Total income for the year of £41710 is made up mainly from the precept £35000. CIL £3497 and VAT £2168 . Total expenses for the year were slightly higher than income due to there being a net cost in the CIL monies. We will start the 2024/25 year with a reserve of £60719

We receive CIL monies from the Borough which has to be ring fenced and spent on local infrastructure projects such as streetlight renewal. This income is most helpful , but if not spent we could have it reclaimed. During this year we used the money to replace some old street lights plus work on drainage and improvements to the telephone kiosk to the east of the village. We still have a surplus of £ 18590 for future projects such as street light timers to help save electricity.

The balance of our reserves is £42129 which is for our everyday general usage and will also allow us to ensure that we have enough money to continue to run the village in the case of emergency.

Overall we are in a stable position from a financial point of view.

I would like to give my thanks to the financial team , especially Sarah Raven who is doing a great job as our RFO, plus Andrew Jamieson, Alison Chesterman and Stephanie Mocatta.

## Parish Report May 2024. Norfolk County Council

### County council's performance and priorities

Norfolk County Council's annual review report and a delivery plan for 2024-25, showing its priorities for this year, has now been published.

I would encourage everyone to read our plan for this year, to be aware of all the work that continues to be done.

You can read the reports at

<https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=Nrf4%2fUO5zvT574gqsv2FnmkjSVBhu20FeieBFNJVWCVS44BJyV9tZg%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzqA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qij0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0C>

Highlights of the council's performance over the last year include:

- Agreeing a £600 million-plus devolution deal to bring powers and funding from Westminster to Norfolk
- Spending £1.5 million per day on adult social care, including help for 11,000 people to return home from hospital.
- Securing £49.5 million of Government funding to improve bus services, with an 18 per cent rise in passenger numbers.
- Delivering ultra-fast broadband to more than 6,900 premises, with superfast broadband now covering 97.3 per cent of properties.
- Serving more than 1.8 million library customers.

Key priorities for this year include:

- Delivering the devolution deal and an economic strategy for Norfolk
- Delivering better quality, local and affordable care for children, including more foster carers
- Continuing to deliver supported living housing programmes for adults
- Delivering library hubs, including a range of services, in King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth
- Completing the roll-out of LED streetlighting, to cut costs and carbon emissions

Cabinet has also discussed the start of its budget planning process for next year. The council's current savings target is £44.7 million.

## **Economy-boosting Local Enterprise Partnership to continue under County Councils**

Business support and other economy-boosting services delivered by New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) are to continue following its integration into Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils.

Key functions and employees of the LEP transferred to the authorities on 1 April 2024 as part of the Government's devolution process. Its functions include business representation, strategic economic planning, and responsibility for the delivery of government programmes.

Business support will continue to be provided by New Anglia Growth Hub - which delivers the LEP's business growth programme, including the administration of grant schemes.

Major construction and infrastructure projects across Norfolk have received significant funding thanks to the LEP's Growth Deal with Government, which secured £223.5m for the region to 2021. These include the recently opened Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth, the Digi-Tech Factory at City College Norwich, and Productivity East, the centre for engineering, technology and management at the University of East Anglia.

Great Yarmouth's Operations & Maintenance Campus for the offshore industry, and the North Walsham Town Centre improvements were among the shovel-ready schemes for which the LEP secured £32.1m from the Government's Getting Building Fund.

The LEP's work can also be seen in the projects supported via its Growing Places Fund, such as Broadland Food Innovation Centre at the Food Enterprise Park at Honingham.

The economic development team, now working within Norfolk County Council, will be continuing this work following finalisation of Norfolk's Devolution deal.

## **Details of Norfolk's Climate Plan**

A range of initiatives to support Norfolk's climate plan have been revealed, including:

- A pilot to develop a sustainable and viable seaweed industry in Norfolk - the project will work with partners in the Netherlands, already implementing sea farms
- Supporting the development of nature-based solutions to help secure Norfolk's long term water resilience
- Further walking and cycling improvements in places including King's Lynn, Norwich, Great Yarmouth, and Dereham
- The Council has released its Pollinator action Plan, designed to enhance pollinators on County farms and roadside verges, as well as helping to inspire wider action across Norfolk.
- This sits within our Local nature recovery strategy. These reports can also be read via the above link.

**Andrew Jamieson**

**County Councillor for North Coast**

**Deputy Leader and Member for Finance at Norfolk County Council.**

## **Speed Watch Annual Report**

The Team

During the year the team has shrunk. These losses are primarily due to health issues and we are now only 9 and that may shrink further. We are I fear very susceptible to health issues because of age!

Road side checks

We try to average 2 at least a month varying times but we can only use Green Lane site as the western end of the village is permanently blocked by builders vehicles or Deli workers vehicles and there appears to be no appetite to address this issue. As I reported last year we make no impression on the number of offending motorists and the Police use our data as background info. only. It is very disappointing that with an MP from and adjoining constituency stating on the National News recently that he would welcome ( and support) an initiative that tried to address speeding generally through our villages that my own proposal has not been followed up. Without some action I see our group losing heart and giving up.

SAM2 signs

Still trying to get these signs sorted by Westcotec. Sarah can explain more. But for the reasons given above and also because of an overhanging tree 3 of our 6 sites are not used and of no use.

The following thank you's

To all the team

Particularly to the few left this winter who battled on.

To Sarah who has been so very helpful and supportive.

## **Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field Report**



### **Report for the Annual Parish Meeting**

**May 2024**

#### **Last year and future events**

The Hall has been very busy as the number of events and usage continues to grow.

The objective of the Hall is to provide a service to the community in Thornham and the surrounding villages. We are pleased that we are meeting that objective with the growing number and variety of events and increased attendances.

One of our longstanding successful events is the Soup and Sandwiches lunches, which run through the winter months. Carolyn Barrett leads the team of fourteen volunteers who run the lunches and they have just completed their ninth season. The lunches were a key part of the grant bid to the Big Lottery fund and have been a core part of our social commitment to the community. This season there have been eight lunches with a regular attendance of about 50. The feedback from our visitors is very positive and it clear that they value the social interaction and enjoyment that they bring. In addition, the lunches have raised £815 for several local charities.

Another popular event is Winter Warmers. These evenings brighten the darker months of the winter season with interesting and entertaining talks on a wide variety of topics. Sue Herbert and her team run these events seamlessly, generously supported by the Orange Tree and North Norfolk catering. Sue never ceases to amaze us with her ability to attract such interesting speakers. To focus on just a few of these: over the last year we have heard about the discovery and raising of HMS Gloucester from the North Sea; the challenges facing the Universities in the UK; Carbon Capture and Storage; sustainable farming on the Holkham Estate...and many more. Sue already has speakers booked for the 2024/25 season.

Fans of opera and ballet have been flocking to the Hall for the return of our Live Streaming of performances from the Royal Opera House. Hilary Dyson and her team have been crucial in mastering the new technology and organising the program of performances. Audiences have enjoyed some of their old favourites, such as Manon and Swan Lake, as well as experiencing the wonderful but less well-known opera, Rusalka. The program runs until May 30<sup>th</sup>.

These events are not for everyone. So, we have asked our new Events Committee, lead by Sue Herbert, to look at other inclusive options for the benefit of our community. So far this has included a Bingo night and a Quiz, which were well attended and successful events. We hope that they will become regular fixtures in the calendar. We are very receptive to ideas and encourage residents to make suggestions.

There are many more events happening this year with old favourites, such as Open Gardens on June 16<sup>th</sup> and the Sausage Sizzle on July 19<sup>th</sup>. And of course, the numerous exhibitions, antique and craft fairs, yoga, Bag Ladies coffee mornings etc. There will be some new events coming, so please look at our updated website for more details.

Many of you joined us for the celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last September. It was a joyous occasion with more than 200 people who turned up to enjoy a splendid Hog Roast and live Jazz Music. TVH, TUC, TPC, The Church, Allotments, History Society and Cricketers all pulled together some wonderful exhibits. The Junior Cricket was a major success, with nearly 100 young cricketers taking part.

Cricket in Thornham is an important part of village life and as such the TVH want to support the growth and development of the Thornham Cricket Club. The TCC has been very successful in recent seasons, not only on the field but also in growing their membership and building a Juniors program. However, currently they must endure an inadequate pavilion. Therefore, the TVH has committed to replace it and to build a new sports pavilion. This is a major undertaking which will require a significant amount of fundraising. The TVH will make a large investment from our reserves and the TCC has contributed generously, with both cash and professional pro-bono work from volunteers. A committee with members from TVH and TCC has been given the task of approving the new building and the fund-raising campaign.

Finally, the Trustees of TVH are most grateful for the support from the PC and their generous award of grants.

### **Church Report:**

Church Report for the Parish Council 2023. The year started with both of our clergy leaving the Benefice to take up posts elsewhere – Rachael to Swanton Morley and Kirsty to Jersey. Both are sadly missed in Thornham. The Venerable Catherine Dobson our Archdeacon organised mediation sessions for all benefices to enable the benefice to go forward in harmony. We continue to alternate our services with Holme-next-the-Sea and are grateful to the retired clergy in the benefice who help take services while we are in an interregnum. We held 4 weddings, 2 baptisms and 2 funerals throughout the year. A welcome area has been set up at the back of the church incorporating a book stall with The Bagladies of Thornham donating new bookshelves. Four new comfortable chairs, a coffee table and drink making facilities for visitors to enjoy were funded by Stephanie Mocatta through Crowdfunding. We are extremely grateful to both Bagladies and Mrs. Mocatta for helping us to set up this new area. Again the bats did not return in any great number after the new boxes were installed but a few were recorded investigating the new entrance and boxes and it was decided to leave the window open for another season. In March Peter Marchbank organised a concert with the Bridge String Quartet – the concert was enjoyed by a small but appreciative audience. A successful church fete was held in August in the church with many non-church going residents and friends helping on the day. The sum of £2,414 was raised towards church funds. Our parish share contribution for 2023 was £9,110.00 which was paid in full and our contribution for 2024 will be £9,567.00 We now have a Digital Giving contactless card reader in the church which is proving very successful with visitors and congregations alike. Following this we produced a glossy leaflet asking the community to support the church by giving a regular donation and this has resulted in 7 more regular donors. The Parish Council gave us a grant of £2,750.00 towards the maintenance of the churchyard and servicing of the clock, and we are extremely grateful for their continued support. The allotments continue to be productive and produce good crops of fruit and vegetables but a higher fence has been put up to prevent deer coming on to the allotments. The church wardens have been meeting with the Bishop of Lynn and Archdeacon to try and move forward and we are at present putting together a Parish Profile with a view to advertising for a new incumbent later in 2024. We keep our fingers crossed!

## **Report from Bag Ladies:**

The BagLadies of Thornham have continued to raise money for Thornham Village fund during the last year . We have sold our goods at several events including Burnham Market Craft Fair , All Saints Church fete and our Winter Gift Fair . Our major donation has been £5,000 to the Jubilee Meadow .The Jubilee oak tree is now in place and nearby is the BagLadies picnic table which can accommodate a wheelchair . We have also contributed to some new chairs for the Village Hall and all proceeds from our stall at the fete were donated to the church .

In the summer we will be selling our goods at the Open Gardens in June and at a coffee morning in August at the village Hall .

Sadly as many of you will know ,Melanie Venes died last month .The BagLadies group first started in 2006 under Melanie's leadership . Through the years she inspired and guided us and to date , we have raised the magnificent total of £95,000 . Our aim is to carry on the good work started by Melanie until we reach our target of £100,000 .